

Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Meeting

**MINUTES**

Silverdale, Washington  
May 21, 2009

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The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session on May 21, 2009 in Silverdale, Washington. Commission Chair Lynn Bahrych called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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**ATTENDEES**

Lynn Bahrych, Chair  
Fred Colvin, Vice Chair  
Jim Peters, Member  
Lynn Brown, Member  
Tracy Eriksen, Member  
Lee Faulconer, Member  
Bill Boyum, Member  
Dean Longrie, Member  
Stephen Bernath (Ecology), Member

**COMMISSION STAFF**

Mark Clark, Executive Director  
Ron Shultz, Policy Director  
Tom Salzer, Technical Services Manager  
Debbie Becker, Financial Services Manager  
Stu Trefry, Puget Sound Regional Manager  
Megan McCormack, Program Specialist  
Ray Ledgerwood, Program Facilitator

**PARTNERS REPRESENTED DURING THIS MEETING:**

John Larson, Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)  
Roylene Rides-at-the-Door, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Kim Simpson, Washington Association of District Employees (WADE)  
Don Larsen, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)

**GUESTS:**

Joy Garitone, Kitsap Conservation District  
George Boggs, Whatcom Conservation District  
Carolyn Kelly, Skagit Conservation District  
Monte Mahan, Pierce Conservation District  
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District  
Don Hatler, Clallam Conservation District  
Todd Bolster, Department of Ecology

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**Introductions & Partnership Reports**

Roylene Rides-at-the-Door reported that they have been working with the partners on how they can provide more assistance. They are working on providing an activity report that would be available online to all partners. NRCS is in pretty good shape in regards to the Budget. John Larson reported that his main focus has been on getting through the session. Now that session is over, his challenge remains working through the budget. Currently he has been assisting and gathering information from the districts on the budget process. Kim Simpson reported there were 185 registrations for WADE, this includes speakers. Lee Faulconer reported that WSDA came out of the budget in pretty good shape which is due to the fact that they are a fee service agency. The agency took some cuts but the core programs came through ok. Stephen Bernath reported that Ecology came away from the budget with a loss of 40 positions across the whole agency. He is unsure how this will affect the Water Quality program at this time. Jim Peters reported that the

tribes have been looking into having casino's set aside some of their accounts for salmon restoration. They are still working hard on getting some stimulus dollars to focus on fixing culverts which would ultimately save a lot of jobs. Bill Boyum reported that DNR had to cut 150 positions due to the budget. He also announced that he will be retiring. Dean Longrie mentioned that the Officer's & Directors meeting was earlier this month. They have tentatively setup the area meetings, most of which are in October and the beginning of November. The District elections was a big topic of discussion at the O&D meeting, a small committee has been setup to address the elections. Don Larsen reported that WDFW had a \$23.7 million shortfall in the budget. There were 120 positions eliminated. Lynn Bahrych discussed the passing of SB 5583 that deals with trust water rights. The WA Enviro council got a small grant for a how-to for parents who don't like what their kids are being fed at school, which Lynn passed around their marketing materials.

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### **Consent Agenda**

**Lynn Brown made a motion to approve the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as well as travel to the NACD legislative conference, Pacific Region NACD meeting & NASCA Annual meeting for the Executive Director, Tracy seconded.**

Lynn Bahrych had a small correction to the minutes.

**Motion approved with correction mentioned by Chair Bahrych.**

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### **Legal/Technical Services**

- **USDA producer files confidentiality**

Roylene Rides-at-the-Door reported that if a document has a farm and track number on it, they are not allowed to release the information because you are able to identify who that producer is. They are currently working on a state supplement with two attachments that states if the partners get a request to release info. if USDA is attached to that plan it would be handed back to FSA & NRCS.

- **Appointments**

**Lynn Brown moved to appoint the single candidates on the list which represent the central area, Tracy seconded.**

<b>Conservation District</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>
Adams	Dennis Swinger
Benton	Jack Clark
C. Klickitat	Larry Williams
E. Klickitat	Michael Kelley
Foster Creek	John McLean
Franklin	Brad Bailie & Kurt Harder
Grant	Paul Stoker
Moses Lake	Rex Chamberlain
N. Yakima	Gail Thornton
S. Douglas	Terry Besel
S. Yakima	Jon Nishi
Underwood	Todd Murray

Jim Peters would like to amend the motion to incorporate the other areas.

**Original motion approved. Appointments of Central Area have been made.**

**Tracy Eriksen moved to appoint the single candidates on the list which represent the eastern area, Fred seconded.**

<b>Conservation District</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>
Asotin	Ron Scheibe
Columbia	Jim Hanger
Ferry	Lee Hall
Lincoln	Keith Schafer
Palouse	Chris Heitstuman
Pend Oreille	Randall Leestma
Pine Creek	James Fletcher
Pomeroy	Richard Hastings
Stevens	Thomas McKern
Walla Walla	Edward Chvatal
Whitman	Janey Turney

**Motion approved**

**Fred Colvin moved to appoint the single candidates on the list which represent the western area, Lynn Brown seconded.**

<b>Conservation District</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>
Clallam	Ben Smith
Clark	Dean Longrie
Cowlitz	James Scott
Grays Harbor	Gregg Schmitz
Jefferson	Roger Short
King	William Knutsen, Jr.
Kitsap	Frank Varley
Lewis	David Fenn
Pierce	Janice Bryant
Snohomish	Monte Marti
Whidbey Island	Francis Einterz

**Motion approved**

The following districts had multiple applications submitted for one position.

**Lynn Brown moved to appoint Roger Wristen to the Cascadia Conservation District Board, Fred seconded.**

**Motion approved**

**Tracy moved to appoint Jason Huntley to the Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District Board, Lynn Brown seconded.**

**Motion approved**

**Fred moved to appoint Vicki Heater to the San Juan Islands Conservation District Board, Dean seconded.**

**Motion approved**

Lynn Bahrych would like to encourage San Juan CD to appoint Gerald Rasmussen, the other applicant, to be an associate supervisor. She is concerned since the board did not see his application that they were unaware of his expertise.

Lynn Brown would like to make a motion on behalf of Fred Colvin's area since Fred's motion may be perceived wrong since he is a member of the board.

**Lynn Brown moved to appoint Doug Rushton to the Thurston Conservation District Board, seconded by Dean.**

Stephen Bernath recused himself from this vote.

**Motion approved**

**Fred Colvin moved to appoint Larry Davis to the Whatcom Conservation District Board, seconded by Lynn Brown.**

**Motion approved.**

- **Elections**

Voter turn-out was substantially higher this year, most of which was due to the King CD. There were 6 contested elections this year.

**Lynn Brown moved that we certify that our procedures were followed and announce official winners of the Conservation District elections, Jim seconded.**

<b>Conservation District</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>
Adams	Emmitt Cain
Asotin	Rodney Hostetler
Benton	Dan Downs
Cascadia	Hal Hawley
C. Klickitat	Victor Blandine
Clallam	Donald Hatler
Clark	Lynn Engdahl
Columbia	Byron Seney
Cowlitz	Howard Jaeger
E. Klickitat	Stephen Matsen
Ferry	Charlotte Coombes
Foster Creek	Lee Hemmer
Franklin	Chris Herron
Grant	Derek Stevens
Grays Harbor	Ted Baker, Jr.
Jefferson	Elijah Christian
King	Preston Drew
Kitsap	Albert Alpress
Kittitas	Jeff Brunson
Lewis	Ken Crocker
Lincoln	Edward "Eddie" Johnson
Mason	Gary Schuyten

## Approved at the July 16, 2009 Commission Meeting

N. Yakima	Dustin Melius
Okanogan	Albert Roberts
Pacific	Chris Pedersen
Palouse	Keith Kopf
Palouse-Rock Lake	Clinton O'Keefe
Pierce	Jeanette Dorner
Pine Creek	David Gumm
Pomeroy	Kyle Pearson
San Juan Islands	Peter Walmsley
Skagit	Thijs Jacobson
Snohomish	Karl Hereth
S. Douglas	Jeffrey Rock
S. Yakima	Stephen Bangs
Spokane	Mary Sullivan
Stevens	Pete Guglielmino
Thurston	Daniel Cathers
Underwood	Don Gensler
Wahkiakum	Tony Aegerter
Walla Walla	Todd Kimball
Whatcom	Edwin Stone
Whidbey Island	Everell "Duke" LeBaron
Whitman	Dennis Kincaid

### **Motion approved**

Mark Clark would like to create a sub-group of commissioners and staff as well as the AAG to take a look at issues of appointments & elections and then report back to the group with direction at a later date. Fred would like to see within our guidelines do we have a definition of a farmer/operator?

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## **Finance**

- **DRAFT Grants Procedure Manual**

Debbie Becker provided the Commissioners with a list of the key changes to the Grants Procedure Manual.

**Tracy moved to approve the changes to the Grants Procedure manual, Fred seconded.**

### **Motion approved**

- **Livestock Policy**

Debbie Becker presented a DRAFT policy which was created by John Larson, Fred Colvin & Debbie Becker. This policy allows for a max of \$25K per facility and \$50K per producer. If a landowner received cost share in the previous biennium, a landowner who has NOT would be placed higher on the list. The cost share percentage amount remains at 75%. The policy also contains a list of animals, this is merely a guideline. Lynn Brown would like the districts to see this before it is adopted.

A consensus was met that this DRAFT proposal goes out to the districts for their review before the Commission adopts.

- **07-09 Spending status**

There will possibly be Implementation (IM) money coming back but we won't know for sure for a few more weeks. The Irrigation program is expected to be fully expended. John Larson is frustrated with the IM numbers.

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**09-11 Budget**

Debbie Becker reviewed the Conservation Commission budget reduction for 09-11. The Commission administration was reduced for 09-11 by \$470,000. We won't know the status of the inter-agency agreements for another month or two.

- **WACD Recommendations**

In April WACD held an All-Districts meeting to discuss a budget allocation. Some of the recommendations discussed included, allocating funds based on performance with the idea that we reward good performance as an incentive if a CD improves. The districts were in unanimous agreement that the CD's meet a minimum standard before being given any funds, which included meeting requirements of the RCW. Currently, ways to recognize performance and provide incentives to the few districts who are not meeting requirements are being reviewed. The goal that remains is to help the districts meet their goals. The Commission reached a consensus for staff to bring forward the WACD recommendations, summarize the conversation and bring it forward as well. Dean Longrie recommends that the June meeting be in-person. The meeting will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Department of Ecology Building in Lacey, WA.

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**District Operations**

- **Mason CD Update**

The internal operating deadline for brief is August 1<sup>st</sup>. The AG is underway on developing her brief.

- **Distribution of Cost Share to Associate Supervisors & CD Staff**

At the time WACD worked on the legislation to exempt district supervisors on cost share, it did not anticipate that associate supervisors and staff could be called Municipal Officers. The new policy is attached to the minutes,

**Lynn Brown moved to adopt the policy on Distribution of Cost Share to Associate Supervisors and CD Staff, Dean Longrie seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

- **Update on District Technical Employees training & certification program**

The technical group had a breakthrough with NRCS staff, when Due to ongoing budget constraints, NRCS leaders stated they will be unable to provide the on-site assistance of reviewing work done by conservation district technical employees. The commission's responsibility would be to help the association with development of the training, mentoring and certification program, but this would ultimately be run by WACD a Joe Holtrop felt that this committee has been one of the most productive and rewarding committees he has served on. He feels that there are tremendous opportunities to share amongst districts.

- **Crab Creek Livestock producers meeting**

10 producers received letters from Ecology with sites that had livestock trampling near Crab Creek. Currently there is no coordinated resource management project on Crab Creek. The Lincoln CD does have the opportunity to work with individuals within the area who want to do some conservation practices. Some may even consider doing a conservation plan with the district and use cost share programs not requiring exclusion fencing and buffers.

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### **Regional Manager Report**

Stu Trefry pointed out the work that Eric Kopp has done with the State Auditor's office. He is also working on the issue with the banking industry which directly affects the CD's. At the advice of the AG, the contracting and bidding piece in our procedure manual has been removed. If any questions are received, we seek the answers from MRSC. A link will be placed on our website to MRSC to obtain answers on contracting and bidding.

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### **Commission Operations**

- **Dig It**

No Report

- **Adoption of Annual Plan, special mtg. June 12<sup>th</sup>**

The input from the May 20<sup>th</sup> work session will be brought forward at the June meeting.

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### **Chair's Comments**

Chair had no comments

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### **Adjournment**

Commission Chair Lynn Bahrych adjourned at 3:56 pm.